

Team Ontario Pep Rally

Over 200 athletes, coaches, managers, artists, parents, friends, dignitaries and special guests gathered at the Beringia Centre today to celebrate Team Ontario. The dignitaries included the Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion, his Parliamentary Assistant and former Olympic athlete and marathon runner Peter Fonseca, and Sportalliance of Ontario CEO Jim Bradley. The athletes were also treated to a visit by former Olympians from Ontario Brian Orser and Sue Hollaway.

Teams arrived at the centre around 11:30 am enthusiastic and excited from the Ringette game where Ontario won its first competition of the Games. Everyone picked up drinks and nutritious snacks and competed in groups for the Team Ontario challenge. It was a time of fellowship and fun as athletes from various sports met each other and vied for photos with Brian and Sue.

Everyone then moved into the auditorium where the volume went up along with the excitement. The program opened with an inspiring slide presentation to the song "Power of the Dream". MC Dave Saad then told the athletes that in the 1970'S there was a ball team that was called "The Big Red Machine" that dominated the sport at that time. Saad told them "there is a new 'big red machine' in town and YOU are it!"



Our two talented musicians with the National Artist Program, Alex Sinclair on guitar and vocals, and Joe Sargant on drums, performed three original works for the audience and were a big hit.

Motivating speeches were delivered by Minister Jim Watson and Peter Fonseca, Jim Bradley and of course the leader of Team Ontario, Chef de Mission Blair McIntosh. The Ringette team then led the whole group in a rousing Ontario cheer that became the mantra of the group on the buses and at the opening ceremonies. At the end of the pep rally, Minister Watson and PA Fonseca gave everyone a gift of warm and fuzzy Ontario scarves for all to wear into the opening ceremonies.

For photos of today's Pep Rally
and the Opening Ceremonies, visit:
www.teamontario2007.shutterfly.com

Team Ontario Flagbearer - Natasha Cote

Honour student, talented athlete, admired teammate and enthusiastic Team Ontario member Natasha Cote was chosen as the flagbearer for the opening ceremonies. Natasha was born in Ottawa and competes for the Gloucester-Cumberland Devils and is coached by Danielle Poirier. She was the recipient of the Cara Brown Ringette Scholarships at the 2006 Canadian Championships in Longueuil. She is one of the captains on her team and can also boast being the only fluently bilingual player on her team.





Team Ontario Ringette were the first to get into a competition in Whitehorse with a win over PEI. The girls showed poise and good sportsmanship.



Team Ontario Mission Office

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What's On Tomorrow for Team Ontario

Long Track Speed Skating

FH Collins High School

9:00 a.m. Race 1 - Men's 500, Final - Ladies 1000m

9:00 a.m. Medals Ladies 1000m

11:30 a.m. Final - Race 2 Men's 500m

11:30 a.m. Medals Men's 500 m

1:00 p.m. Preliminary Trial - Ladies 100m



Men's Hockey

Takhini Arena

Ontario vs. P.E.I.

3:30 p.m.



Badminton

CGC Fieldhouse 1

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Warm-up

9:00 - 12:00 noon M/L Singles (3 rounds)

2:00 - 6:00 p.m. M/L Doubles (2 rounds) and Mixed Doubles (2 rounds)



Ringette

Canada Games Centre

9:00 a.m. ON vs. BC



Food Services

The jury is in: the food services in the cafeteria are outstanding! Just a reminder that you cannot take your backpack *into* the cafeteria with you, and that you cannot take any food *out* of the cafeteria. The cafeteria is open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm daily and grazing is available at all times.

Hot food will be available from:

Breakfast 6:00 – 10:00 am

Lunch 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Dinner 4:00 – 8:00 pm

Tomorrow's Weather Report

Saturday: Sunny. Ice fog patches dissipating in the morning. Wind becoming north 20 km/h in the morning. High minus 23. Cold wind chill minus 46. Risk of frostbite.

Saturday night: Cloudy periods. 30 percent chance of flurries overnight. Low minus 35.

Sunday: A mix of sun and cloud with 30 percent chance of flurries. High minus 21.

Yesterday
High: -24.3°C Low: -27.2°C
Sunrise: 8:19 Sunset: 18:08